

RECEIVED
IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA
NORTHERN DIVISION

2005 SEP 28 P 3:07
J. S. (a minor child, by and through his
father and next best friend, John
Seawright),

v.

Officer Curt Campbell,
in his individual capacity,
Defendant.

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2:05cv928-T
Civil Case No. 2:05-cv-_____

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

COMPLAINT

COMES NOW Plaintiff J.S. (a minor child, by and through his father and next best friend, John Seawright) , by and through his attorney, and would show unto the Court as follows:

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

1. Plaintiff files this Complaint and invokes the jurisdiction of this Court under and by virtue of the Fourth, Fifth, and Fourteenth Amendments to the Constitution of the United States. 42 U.S.C. § 1983, 28 U.S.C. § 1331, 28 U.S.C. § 1343, 28 U.S.C. § 2201, 28 U.S.C. § 2202, and the doctrine of supplemental jurisdiction to obtain declaratory relief and compensatory and punitive damages. Defendant violated Plaintiff's rights as guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States, by Federal law, and by the laws and Constitution of 1901 of the State of Alabama.
2. The violations of Plaintiff's rights as alleged herein occurred in Lowndes County, Alabama, and were committed within the Northern Division of the Middle District of the State of Alabama.

PARTIES

3. Plaintiff J.S. is under the age of 19 years (age 13), and is and at all times material hereto was a citizen of the United States and the State of Alabama, residing in Lowndes County, Alabama. J.S. is suing by and through his father and next friend, John Seawright.
4. Officer Curt Campbell (hereinafter, "Campbell"), a better denomination of whom is presently unknown to Plaintiff, is a natural person believed to be over the age of 19 years, is or was at all times material hereto an employee, officer or agent of the City of Fort Deposit Police Department and is a person whose conduct proximately and directly harmed Plaintiff.

NATURE OF PROCEEDINGS

5. This is a proceeding for a judgment declaring the relative rights, responsibilities and liabilities of the parties, each to the other, and for compensatory and punitive damages for Plaintiff's suffering as a consequence of the wrongs alleged herein.

FACTS

6. Plaintiff expressly adopts as if fully set forth herein the allegations in the foregoing paragraphs.
7. On or about June 15, 2005, without probable cause or justification of any sort, defendant Campbell, officer, agent, or employee of Fort Deposit Police Department, did grab and purposefully choke Plaintiff around the neck such that Plaintiff was caused to pass out.
8. At the time defendant attacked Plaintiff, Plaintiff was not under arrest and was not

committing any violation of law.

9. Plaintiff was caused to have severe injuries requiring the attention of a physician. These injuries resulted in permanent harm to Plaintiff.

CAUSES OF ACTION

10. As to each of the counts herein below set forth, Plaintiff expressly adopts as if fully set forth herein the allegations of the foregoing paragraphs.

COUNT I – DEPRIVATION OF CIVIL RIGHTS UNDER COLOR OF STATE LAW

11. At all times material hereto, Campbell was acting as a law enforcement officer pursuant to State statute and the ordinances, customs, and policies of the Fort Deposit Police Department.
12. Plaintiff had a protectible interest in his freedom under the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution. He further had a right under the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution to be secure in his person against unreasonable searches and seizures and to be free from the use of unreasonable and excessive force.
13. The aforementioned rights were clearly established at the time of the conduct giving rise to the claims herein.
14. Any reasonable officer knows or should know that the aforementioned rights were clearly established at the time of the conduct giving rise to the claims herein.
15. Defendant assaulted and battered Plaintiff without justification of any sort and subjected

him to unreasonable and excessive force in violation of the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution. The purpose of the assault and battery was to punish Plaintiff without according him due process of law in violation of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

16. Plaintiff's rights under the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments were thus impermissibly abridged and violated.
17. The aforesaid conduct proximately caused damage to Plaintiff in that it caused him to experience pain, suffering, embarrassment, humiliation, extreme mental anguish and severe emotional distress.

COUNT II – NEGLIGENCE

18. The aforementioned conduct by Defendant constituted negligent behavior in that Defendant owed a duty to Plaintiff to conduct himself in such a way as to avoid harming Plaintiff.
19. In engaging in the conduct he did, as more fully set forth and described herein, Defendant was neglectful, careless, and unskillful as compared to reasonable law enforcement officers.
20. Defendant negligently assaulted and battered Plaintiff.
21. The said negligent conduct was the proximate cause of injuries to Plaintiff in that Plaintiff was subjected to physical pain and suffering and great emotional distress and mental anguish.
22. Plaintiff has been injured and damaged as a direct and proximate result of Defendant's conduct.

COUNT III – TRESPASS

23. At the time and on the date at issue, Plaintiff had an unquestioned right to the quiet enjoyment of his property, the same being both realty and personalty.
24. The property at issue was properly and lawfully held and occupied by Plaintiff.
25. The defendant entered upon the land held and occupied by Plaintiff without consent or lawful process.
26. The defendant entry upon Plaintiff's land and trespass to his land interfered with his right to quiet enjoyment of his property.
27. The defendant is liable to Plaintiff for the damages resulting from the said trespass.

COUNT VIII – ASSAULT AND BATTERY

28. On the date and at the time of the conduct made the subject of this action, the defendant touched J.S. in rudeness, in anger, or in a hostile manner, by touching his person.
29. Plaintiff suffered damages as otherwise herein described as a direct and proximate result of the assault and battery by the defendant.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, THE PREMISES CONSIDERED, Plaintiff prays for relief as follows:

- a) Enter a declaratory judgment that the policies and practices complained of herein are unlawful and violative of the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution, as addressed by and through 42 USCA § 1983;
- b) Grant Compensatory damages in favor of Plaintiff as against Defendant of \$500,000.00;

- c) Grant Punitive damages to Plaintiff against Defendant in the amount of \$500,000.00;
- d) Grant Plaintiff the cost of this action including reasonable attorneys' fees;
- e) Grant such other, further and different relief as this Court may deem just and proper, including all equitable relief, the awarding of which is within the jurisdiction of the Court.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED on this the 28th day of September, 2005.



ANDY NELMS (NEL022)

JAY LEWIS (LEW031)

Plaintiff's Attorneys

OF COUNSEL:

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PLAINTIFF DEMANDS TRIAL BY JURY